

West Virginia

Agricultural Statistics

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2004 PEACH FORECAST FINAL 2003 PEACH and APPLE PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- The 2004 peach crop is forecast at 12.0 million pounds, down 4 percent or a half million pounds from the 2003 crop, but up 2.0 million pounds, or 20 percent from the 2002 crop.

In 2003, peach production totaled 12.5 million pounds, up 2.5 million pounds from 2002. Utilized production in 2003 totaled 11.8 million pounds, an increase of 18 percent from 2002. Value of utilized production totaled \$4.4 million, an increase of 41 percent from 2002. Bearing acres were estimated at 1,100, unchanged from 2002, with an average yield of 11,400 pounds per acre. The average price received per pound was estimated at 37.0 cents. This was an increase of 6.0 cents from 2002.

Total apple production for 2003 was estimated at 87.0 million pounds (2.07 million 42 lb. bushels), down 8 percent from 2002. Utilized production totaled 85.0 million pounds, down 7 million pounds from 2002. Apples for fresh market totaled 16.0 million pounds, up 1 million pounds from 2002. Apples for processing accounted for 69.0 million pounds of the 2003 crop, 8 million pounds less than the 2002 crop.

The average price received for 2003 apples was 9.6 cents per pound, up 1.1 cents from 2002. Total value of utilized production was \$8.2 million for the crop, up \$0.4 million from the 2002 crop. Fresh market apples brought 21.5 cents per pound in 2003, 3.5 cents more than 2002. Processed apples sold for \$138 per ton, \$5 more than in 2002.

The number of bearing acres of apples totaled 6,000 in 2003, down 500 acres from 2002. The yield per acre was 14,500 pounds, 100 pounds less than 2002. The yield was based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested, but not sold due to marketing conditions.

UNITED STATES -- The July 2004 forecast of U.S. peach production is 2.61 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003 and 3 percent above 2002. Fourteen states forecast increases in production from last year, while 11 States expect declines and 4 States remain unchanged. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 1.15 billion pounds, unchanged from the June 1 forecast but 7 percent above 2003. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 780 million pounds, down 2 percent from the June 1 forecast and 6 percent below 2003. The South Carolina peach crop is forecast at 140 million pounds, unchanged from the June 1 forecast but up 40 percent from last year. North Carolina's peach crop, forecast at 9.0 million pounds, is up 50 percent from last year but 10 percent below two years ago. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 110 million pounds, up 10 percent from the June 1 forecast but unchanged from 2003.

The U.S. peach production in 2003 was estimated at 2.52 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Of this production, 2.41 billion pounds were utilized, down 1 percent from 2002. Value of utilized production totaled \$456.4 million, down 6 percent from 2002. The average price received for peaches was 18.9 cents per pound, down 1.1 cents from 2002.

Total apple production for 2003 totaled 8.61 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2002. Utilized apple production totaled 8.52 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the 2002 level. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.78 billion, up 13 percent from 2002. Price per pound averaged 20.9 cents, up 2.1 cents. A total of 5.3 billion pounds was sold for fresh market, down slightly from 2002. There were 3.2 billion pounds for processing, up 5 percent from 2002.